

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 5, 2007. In the Office Action, all pending claims, claims 1-19, have been rejected. Claims 1, 2, 9-11, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell (US Patent No. 7,162,030) and the remaining claims, claims 3-8 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Bell. Thus, all pending claims stand rejected under Bell.

Right of Priority

In response, Applicant hereby submits an English-translation of Applicant's priority Japanese application, Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-012405, and a signed statement by the translator that the enclosed translation is a true and correct English translation of the priority application. A certified copy of the Japanese priority application was filed previously filed with the PTO and is correctly identified on the filing receipt. As indicated on the cover page of the translated document and Applicant's executed Declaration for Patent, the filing date of the Japanese priority application is January 21, 2003. The US (and earliest) filing date of Bell is December 23, 2003. Thus, based on the Japanese priority date, Applicant's pending application has a filing date (January, 21, 2003) that predates that of Bell (December 23, 2003). Accordingly, Applicant relies on the translation of the priority document (and accompanying statement of the translator) to perfect priority under 35 USC 119 and to overcome the rejection of all the claims based on Bell. See M.P.E.P at 201.15.

Drawings

In the Office Action, Figure 17 has been rejected for failing to include the legend "Prior Art." A corrected drawing has been required by the Examiner. Enclosed is a replacement sheet that identifies Figure 17 with the legend "Prior Art."


For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that this patent application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely.

Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 848075-0068.

Respectfully submitted,

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